Words of Joy! Vol. 2

a Mapping Trans Joy zine

Quotes from the Trans Joy Map

Zine-ified by the nice folks at
Screaming Into The Future

The day I got the call to schedule my FTM top surgery was the day I got to see Chuck Tingle at an author event at Powell's Books where the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence granted them sainthood in their order.

In one day I got to experience trans joy, autistic joy, and queer joy, and was surrounded by others also experiencing similar joy.

It's a moment that will never leave my heart or mind because it really proved love is real, and I deserve to be here and happy.

Portland, Oregon, USA

I came out to my husband as nonbinary a year or so after we were married.

He has been nothing but supportive and always does things for me to affirm my identity, such as using the right pronouns and letting me do whatever is right for me/my body.

He brings me joy every day, and I'm proud to be nonbinary with him.

- Bwee,

Gatineau, Quebec City, Canada

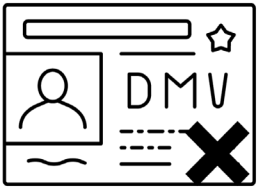
This summer I found out my birth state will allow anyone born there to change their gender marker on their birth certificate for $20 and a notarized form.

In light of the anti-trans bill recently passed in the state where I live (Kansas) and the pressure by the AG here to force people to revert their gender markers on state IDs, it was a tiny, joyful resistance for me to officially be X.

I am keeping an eye on the self-selection process for passports from the state department as well, and will get those documents changed the minute I can afford to. I can't wait to get into an argument (or a lawsuit!) with the DMV next time I renew my license and have to submit these official documents.

-Ari

Lawrence, Kansas, USA



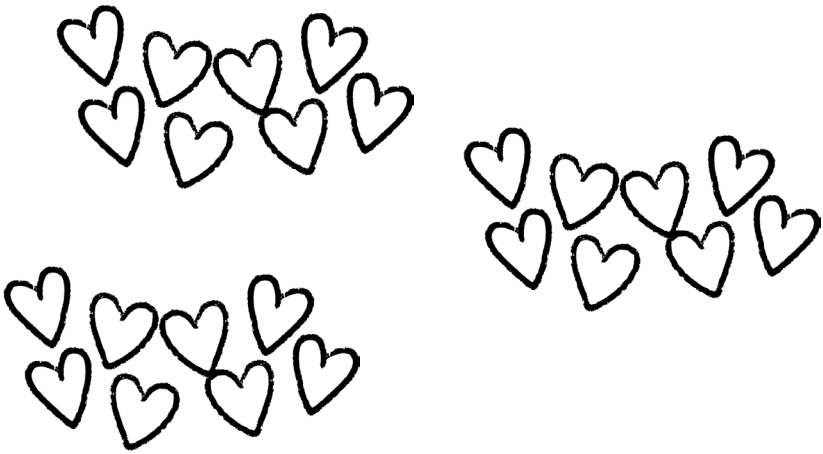
Hi everyone,

I've been transitioning for 8+ years and just this last week have started to really feel at home in my body.

I looked in the mirror and thought to myself, "Yeah, that's a man if I ever saw one."

-Jonas

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



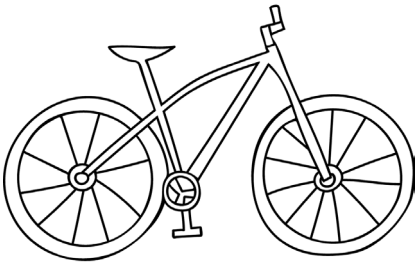
Hey yall, My name is Ryan. I'm very introverted so I can't say that I've been out to a lot of trans spaces.

However there are places that bring me joy, that I feel like I can be myself.

I love nature and wildlife, so somewhere that brings me joy is going out to Cross Lake. I also like to go to the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

I like to walk the trails, bike, fish, and just meditate and contemplate. so those are my places that bring me joy

Shreveport, Louisiana, USA



My moment of trans joy is from a few weeks ago at the church where we had our spring dance and it was a room full of queer people, trans and cis and everything in between.

All queer, young, old, and during the celebration the “Y M C A” came on.

Just being in a room full of queer folks of all ages doing the “Y M C A” together was such a moment of community and joy.

I don’t know. It really left an impression on me and I will probably remember that forever.

And I hope everybody gets to have an experience like that somewhere.

- Kestrel

Gainesville, Florida, USA

My name is Micah, I'm a PLPC in Lake Charles.

For the record, Lake Charles is a very small town. Throughout most of my life, we have had one gay bar, the entrance of which was located behind a dumpster, behind a building. That should give you a little bit of context.

So coming out of grad school and going into my very first job as a counselor, I was a little bit nervous and apprehensive about people using my pronouns and my preferred name. However, I couldn't have asked for a more accepting group of people to work with.

Everyone calls me Mr. Micah, which gives me so much gender euphoria every time I hear it.

Usually I would use 'they' and 'he' pronouns. They end up just using 'he' pronouns. And because of that, I've come to realize that I actually prefer that.

I've just felt so safe and so incredibly validated, but in such a mundane, every-day way. Which is how it should be. There isn't any special attention being given to the fact that I'm trans and that I'm 'Mr. Micah.' So I just come to work every day and experience moments of gender euphoria.

That's, uh, my two cents for here in Lake Charles.

- Mr. Micah

Lake Charles, Louisiana, USA

During the Summer of Pokemon Go,
my wife (trans woman) and I (genderfluid)
got married in the gardens here.

Small but meaningful <3

Horniman Museum and Gardens,
London, England

I attended summer camp at Anytown. It was the only place where no one knew my deadname, where the only pronouns used for me were the ones I put on my name tag.

I got to share a cabin with four other trans and non-binary kids. I was surrounded and supported by trans and non-binary adults. It was the first time I met an adult who use neopronouns. I've never felt so seen and accepted before. It was wonderful.

- Atlas

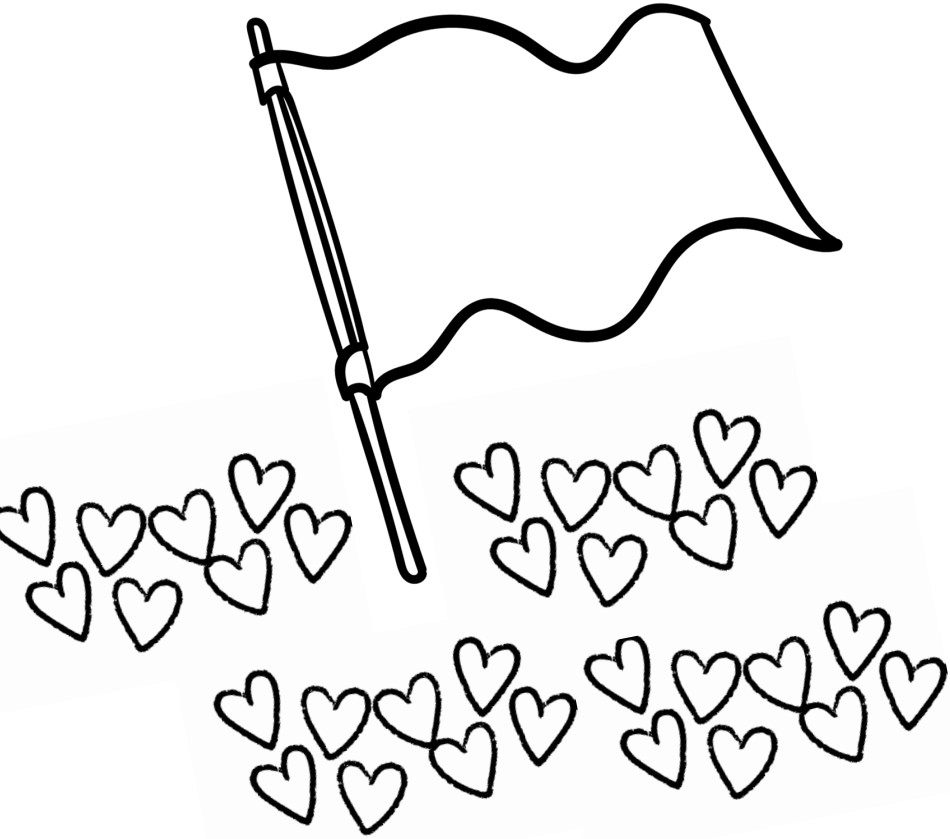
Nauvoo, Alabama, USA

Trans Pride Scotland, 2022, in Paisley!

I got to hold part of the big flag, at the head of the parade.

Awesome time :3

Paisley County Square, Scotland

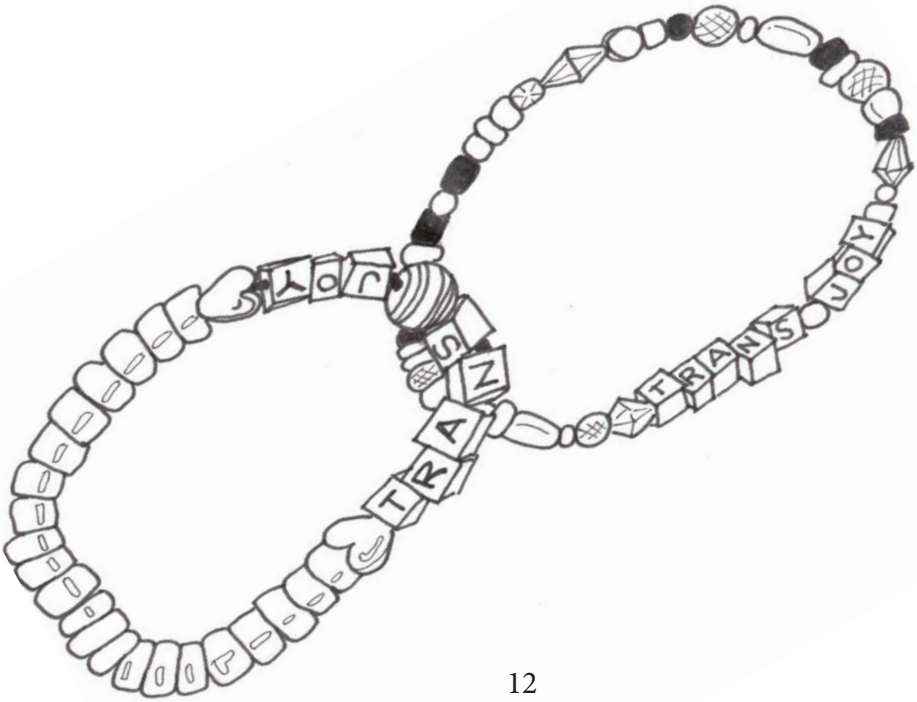


Here for an event, and giving out “trans joy” bracelets. Everyone took them and wore them for days, even the cis elders who were present.

I’m used to elders being generally disappointed in me, and it was amazing to be around so many wonderful, open, engaging folks, both trans and cis.

-Sophie,

Highlander Research and Education Center, New Market, Tenneesee, USA

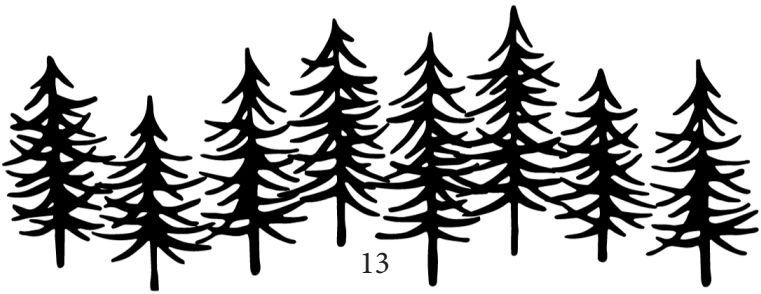


I live in New Orleans, Louisiana, but I want to share a moment of trans joy that happened for me somewhere else. This happened in Kirkham Hot Springs in Idaho. In the Boise National Forest, I believe.

It was really early in my transition and I was visiting these Hot Springs and I was laying in one of the hot springs at night and the stars were all above me and there was just beautiful nature all around me and I suddenly felt so held by the Earth and that feeling just somehow gave me this experience of gender euphoria for the first time. For the first time I felt like a woman and it was amazing and I wanted to share that. Thank you.

- Atlas

Boise National Forest, Idaho, USA



Ten Hoor room 107. This is the classroom that the southern queer history class I have the wonderful opportunity of taking is held. There is something so special about walking into a classroom in the south and for the first time letting go of a breath you did not know you were holding. I don't have to have the usual caution and hyper monitoring of myself and how I share my thoughts and experiences in this classroom. I am able to use the pronouns I want without worrying about what my classmates/professor would do or say.

This is also the classroom I had the wonderful opportunity to talk with the creators of this Mapping Trans Joy project. They were so sweet and radiated joy all of us could feel through the computer screen.

There is also something incredible about getting to know your history exists in the space around you. I don't have to go to San Fransisco or New York; there is queer history here too, and I get to learn about, document, become part of, and create it.

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

Quotes were compiled, and zine was decorated,
by Sophie and Caroline

Big thanks and love to everyone who shared some joy

You can share your joy here:
MappingTransJoy.org/Share

Mapping Trans Joy

Website: MappingTransJoy.org
IG: @MappingTransJoy

Screaming Into The Future

Website: screamingintothefuture.com
IG: @screaming_into_the_future